



# GULF DEFENDER



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## In brief



### Tyndall plays 'Super' role with flyover

Two Raptors from the 43rd Fighter Squadron will make history by performing a flyover with two Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets at Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville. The flyover is scheduled for approximately 5:15 p.m. Sunday.

## What's inside



Tyndall trains Langley Raptor pilots  
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Exercise Crown Royal 05-01 tests Tyndall Airmen  
... **PAGE 11**

### The ORI is coming ...



... **135 days and counting**



2nd Lt. William Powell

## Stripes from stars...

Lieutenant General John Regni, Air University commander, surprises Tech. Sgt. Stephen Ramos with a new set of master sergeant stripes under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program Thursday. The STEP program was established to allow commanders to promote Airmen with exceptional potential. General Regni presented the new rank to Sergeant Ramos as his wife, Christy, proudly looks on. The new senior NCO is an instructor at the NCO Academy here. General Regni was in town for the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Group conference held every year at a different AETC base. "Because of your willingness to teach others to become better Air Force leaders, this is our way of recognizing your superb hard work," the general said. Congratulations, Sergeant Ramos.

# Exercise paves way to ORI success

**1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Weapons of mass destruction. Terrorists. Bomb threats. Computer viruses.

They sound like headlines from the War on Terror, but Airmen at Tyndall Air Force Base simulated these threats Jan. 24-28 and battled to sustain the base's operational capability during the 325th Fighter Wing's first exercise of 2005.

Dubbed Crown Royal 05-01, the week-long exercise simulated scenarios that could potentially occur here, but are more likely to occur in forward operating areas in other parts of the world.

"We evaluated the base's mobility and employment processes, and anti-terrorism and force protection measures as well as the

base's ability to respond to a major accident or attack," said Maj. Gary Dawson, 325th Fighter Wing chief of Wing Plans.

Although exercises may seem simple when talked about, the actual execution of exercise-related tasks takes on a whole new meaning for those involved.

For that reason, the planning of office teams with various subject matter experts to create scenarios that are real enough to educate all Airmen involved.

"Exercises do two things," Major Dawson said. "They evaluate the processes and training and they evaluate the people. But they also help us maintain proficiency at tasks we normally don't get to perform. By doing this, we can ensure the processes and training are rel-

evant, current and credible."

Crown Royal 05-01 was the first of several exercises to come this year – something the wing hopes will provide a valuable opportunity to put the polish on procedures for the upcoming Air Education and Training Command Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for June 19-27.

But, part of making the base shine for inspectors is identifying and correcting any errors in procedure or operation prior to their arrival, something Major Dawson said is already in progress.

"This particular exercise was designed to specifically mirror what we expect to see during the ORI," Major Dawson said. "That allowed us to mitigate many of the surprises the in-

spection team may throw at us."

"In today's world, we need to be ready for anything, but more importantly we need to know how to respond appropriately," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th FW commander. "Exercises teach us precisely how to do that, but we also need to be smart enough to identify and correct areas we feel aren't up to speed. Getting out front early to resolve any issues will pay huge dividends when it comes time to face the inspection team."

According to Major Dawson, preliminary results show the base performed well, but he noted a couple of areas will definitely need attention for future exercises.

"We're still gathering the details,

● **SEE EXERCISE PAGE 3**



## Teamwork, attitude, key to success in base ORI

**LT. COL. GARTH DOTY**

325th Fighter Wing Operational Readiness Inspection chief

The Air Education and Training Command Inspection General team is scheduled to travel to Tyndall in June for an Operational Readiness Inspection.

The week-long event will give the 325th Fighter Wing an opportunity to both showcase our numerous accomplishments and give credit to those who support and carry out the Tyndall AFB mission on a daily basis.

This does not just include our Airmen, but the families who support them. Our everyday success as a wing is a synergism between each diverse task and mission that Team Tyndall accomplishes. Keeping this concept in mind sets the stage for the right vision.

What's your vision for the inspection out-brief this summer? Do you see yourself receiving an evaluation that makes you proud of the work you, your co-workers and the rest of the organization did, or will you receive a less than excellent score that

leaves you searching for an excuse or circumstance that caused you to fall short?

Obviously, we would all prefer the former "excellent" vision, but we'll need the right attitude to get there. We each have the choice now to ensure we leave that brief knowing we gave our utmost and, as a result, the IG team saw that we are the absolute best training wing, specializing in the Air Dominance Force business with no regrets about our performance.

Our "excellence" is driven by deliberate goals and the attitude to give it our best. We will set specific milestones to prepare, but attitude starts with each Airman and civilian in the wing.

In fact, attitude is our single most important ingredient to success.

Years ago, Thomas Jefferson rightly said that "nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."

Enthusiastic optimism spreads to every-

**"Our "excellence" is driven by deliberate goals and the attitude to give it our best."**

**LT. COL. GARTH DOTY**

325th Fighter Wing Operational Readiness Inspection chief

one around you and translates into a momentum that eclipses any negative attitudes. The effects will carry on long after to the person who follows in your position. With the right attitude, we will see little difference between the week-long ORI and how Tyndall executes the mission every other day of the year.

Play your position on the team to the best of your ability. Be a part of the solution during the next several months and beyond. Take on that infectious positive attitude and remove any shadow of doubt inspectors may have about how well we serve here in the 325th FW.

## Base-wide exercise, mobility training eases Airman's mind

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS**

**SARAH McDOWELL**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An exercise evaluator told a story during a pre-exercise briefing in which our wing commander, Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, met the widow of an Airman who was killed due to inadequate training. As a result, the general pledged to both Tyndall Airmen and their spouses that he would not deploy anyone who wasn't fully prepared.

I participated in a base-wide mobility exercise for the first time Jan. 24-28, and my initial fears that nothing could prepare me to deploy were quickly dispelled. The importance of the training was reinforced when a senior NCO in my group told me she had never deployed, nor had she

**"I participated in a base-wide mobility exercise for the first time Jan. 24-28, and my initial fears that nothing could prepare me to deploy were quickly dispelled."**

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

been through mobility training.

In this ever-evolving Air Force, where all Airmen are vulnerable for deployment, it is critical for everyone to have mobility training. The fact that this NCO was only now being exposed to the training told me that the general's vows were true - everyone will go through this training; and no one will deploy unprepared.

Though I had recently completed chemical warfare, self-aid

and buddy care, M-16 and mobility line processing training, (and I still didn't have all the answers to my instructors' questions), I was getting a fast-paced refresher, which definitely made the exercise a worthwhile event.

Throughout the exercise, we were trained and tested to see how well we responded to various contingencies on base. Some of us may have passed with flying colors, and some, like me in the beginning, may have

had a hard time soaking up some of the information, but in the end we were all more prepared to deploy or face the challenges associated with defending this country than we were the week before. I honestly appreciate that.

In fact, I heard more than a few people say, "This training is what made my previous deployment run smoothly, and had I not gone through it I would have been lost."

As a member of the current Air Expeditionary Force cycle I know this exercise has eased my mind and prepared me. And it's good to know the Air Force leadership, from the chief of staff down to the leaders of this base, cares enough to make sure my training is accomplished and I am prepared.

## Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.



**BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON**  
325th Fighter Wing commander



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# F/A-22 on track to go operational

CHRIS MCGEE

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN)** — The F/A-22 Raptor, the Air Force's next-generation air superiority fighter, performed well in recently completed operational testing and is on track to go operational in December, the director of the program's combined test force said.

Speaking prior to a lecture he delivered at the National Museum of the United States Air Force here, Lt. Col. Evan Thomas, a Raptor pilot who commands the 411th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., said testing finished ahead of schedule.

"I'm very optimistic," Colonel Thomas said. "The airplane did very well in operational testing."

He said the process of readying the Raptor for its operational testing — from refining and validating the aircraft's key attributes to training pilots — proved a significant effort and enabled operational testing to be conducted successfully and ahead of schedule.

Even so, Colonel Thomas said obstacles remain to be cleared between now and December.

"There are still a lot of challenges," he said. "It's going to be an uphill fight throughout this year, not only for us on the Air Force Materiel Command developmental test side, but also for Air Combat Command units standing up the first

## During the test...

**Maj. Gen. Richard B.H. Lewis, the Air Force program executive officer for the F/A-22, said about the initial operational test, evaluation, "The ground-based systems couldn't engage the Raptor, and no adversary aircraft survived. That is air dominance, and that's exactly what the Raptor was designed to give us."**



squadron at Langley (AFB, Va.). These are challenges, but we can (overcome) them."

The 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB — the first squadron to transition to the Raptor — received the first operational aircraft Jan. 18 from Tyndall AFB, Fla., where the 43rd Fighter Squadron is training future Raptor pilots.

Pilots with the 27th Fighter Squadron will train on the aircraft by flying missions over the next few months while maintenance crewmembers will train on a separate F/A-22 that arrived at Langley AFB Jan. 7.

Colonel Thomas said the aircraft's package of stealth, supercruise and integrated avionics will give the Air Force and the nation the best capability to operate in combat environments.

"Being able to proceed to a target at

supercruise and get there very quickly to deliver a Joint Direct Attack Munition onto the target is a clear advantage," he said. "You can't have a fighter over every inch of enemy territory, but with a Raptor, you can have more of a central location and cover far more ground in a short time."

The F/A-22's capabilities, combined with an understanding of history's lessons, make the case for the Raptor's value in future conflicts, Colonel Thomas said.

"What 20th century warfare taught us is the overwhelming importance of air superiority," he said. "That is an enduring air power lesson the Air Force has learned, and the F/A-22 is a key component in ensuring that we can establish and maintain air superiority anywhere in the world well out into this century."

## ● FROM EXERCISE PAGE 1

but overall we saw improvement," he said. "The employment phase went better, due in large part to a new training program designed to remedy issues of past exercises. The readiness group has done a great job getting that online."

One of the areas of concern is effective communication. Misinformation hampers effectiveness, and too often people either hold onto vital bits of information or are too vague in communications making it more difficult to handle the situation."

But, the major said, lessons learned are expected, and the base is still on the right track.

"When we find flaws in our processes or people we can target those specific areas and retrain people or amend the processes," Major Dawson said. "I'm confident the base is on the right track, and most, if not all, of the bugs will be worked out for the next exercise."

General Egginton echoed the major's sentiment.

"I'm always amazed at what Tyndall people can do when faced with a challenge," he said. "No matter what exercise scenarios or real-world events confront Tyndall Airmen, everyone comes together to get the job done. That's a hallmark of the base and something the inspectors will definitely notice."

## ON THE STREET

## What will be the final score of the Super Bowl?



"Having lived in Philadelphia for 19 years and being a long time Eagles fan, I think they will choke and lose in the third quarter, finally losing 31-17."

**STAFF SGT. JASON TROXELL**  
1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit



"I think the Eagles will win and it is going to be a close game. The score will be within seven points, probably 31-24."

**2ND LT. JASMINE BOBBIT**  
95th Fighter Squadron



"The New England Patriots will win 24-17."

**STAFF SGT. MARK CURTIS**  
325th Maintenance Operations Squadron



"I think the Patriots will win, 21-17."

**CHRIS ROWE**  
Lockheed Martin



# Murray launches inaugural edition of Airman handbook

MASTER SGT. CHUCK ROBERT  
Air Force Print News

**LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — If Airman Basic Rachel Redel ever forgets who presented her with one of the first two copies of Airman, Air Force Handbook 1, she can find the answer under “Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force,” on Page 15, “Gerald Murray.”

If the 23-year-old basic trainee is curious about what her occupational badge will look like when she graduates basic training in a few weeks and later completes 27 weeks of technical training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., she can check it out on Page 210 “Explosive Ordnance Disposal.”

That was the intent of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, who conceived the idea for a pocket-sized book offering new Air Force accessions — officers, enlisted, civilians — everything they need to know

to pass “Air Force 101.” General Jumper’s vision came to fruition Monday when Chief Murray, the Air Force’s top enlisted Airman, dropped in on a classroom of basic trainees to personally present the first two copies to Airman Redel and Airman Basic Thomas Collins Jr.

“You are the first in the Air Force to receive the new Airman handbook,” Chief Murray told the gathering of basic trainees of the 326th Training Squadron in their fourth week of basic training. “I wish we’d had something like this when I started my career. It’s really a foundation of what we do in the Air Force.”

The blue paperback handbook offers “big pictures” and little words to blend together the four pillars of the Air Force: character, honor, personal integrity and patriotism throughout its 360 pages.

Chief Murray encouraged the basic trainees to use the handbook as a means of continually increasing their overall knowledge.

“The more you learn about this great Air Force, the more doors it opens up,” he said.

The handbook encompasses a broad expanse of military information broken into six sections, covering topics such as “Air Force Top 10 Aces,” “Air Force Vocabulary,” “CONOPS” and “Medal of Honor Recipients.” The handbook falls under the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

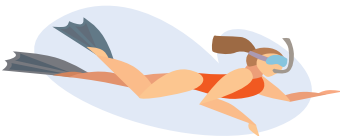
Airman Redel said there is one thing she will not need the book for — to remember the surprise at being picked to receive her copy from Chief Murray. She had known for a few days that he would be making a guest appearance, but she did not find out until 10 minutes before his arrival that she would personally receive an autographed copy from him.

“I feel very honored,” said the Sierra Vista, Ariz., native. “It’s something I’ll never forget and will keep with me the rest of my career.”

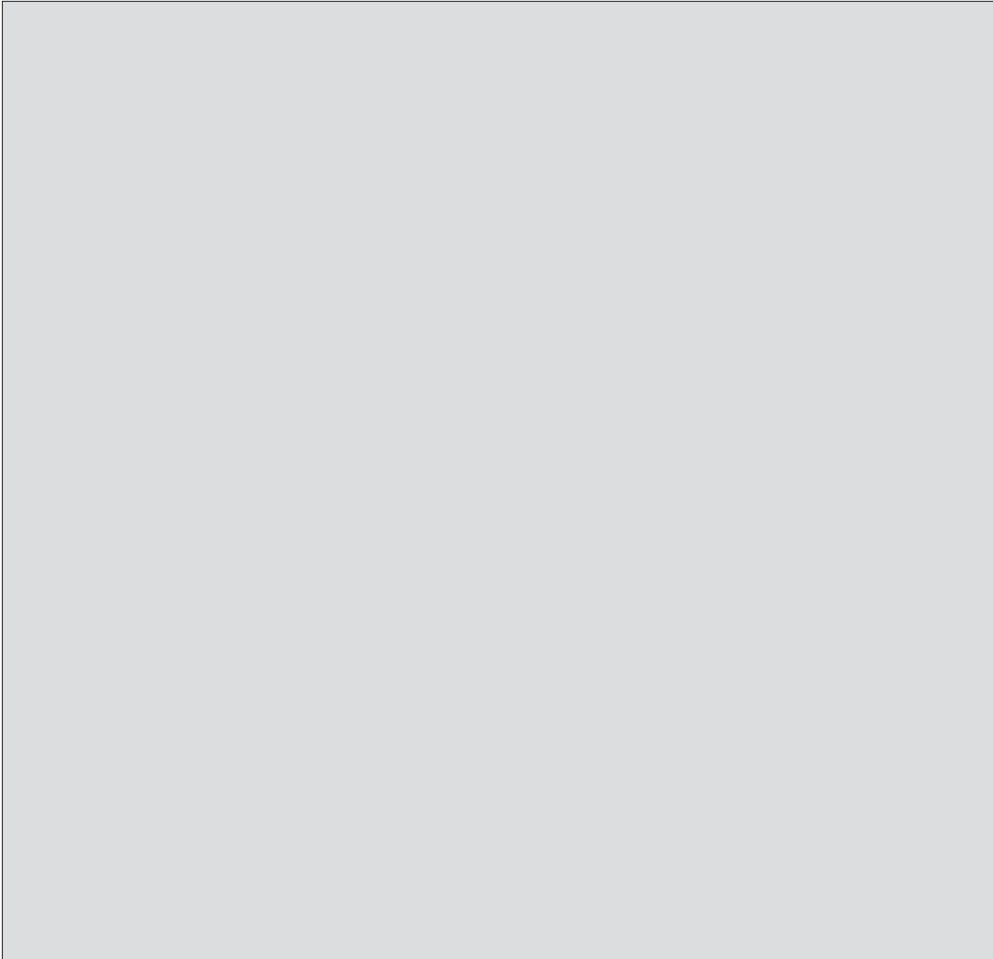
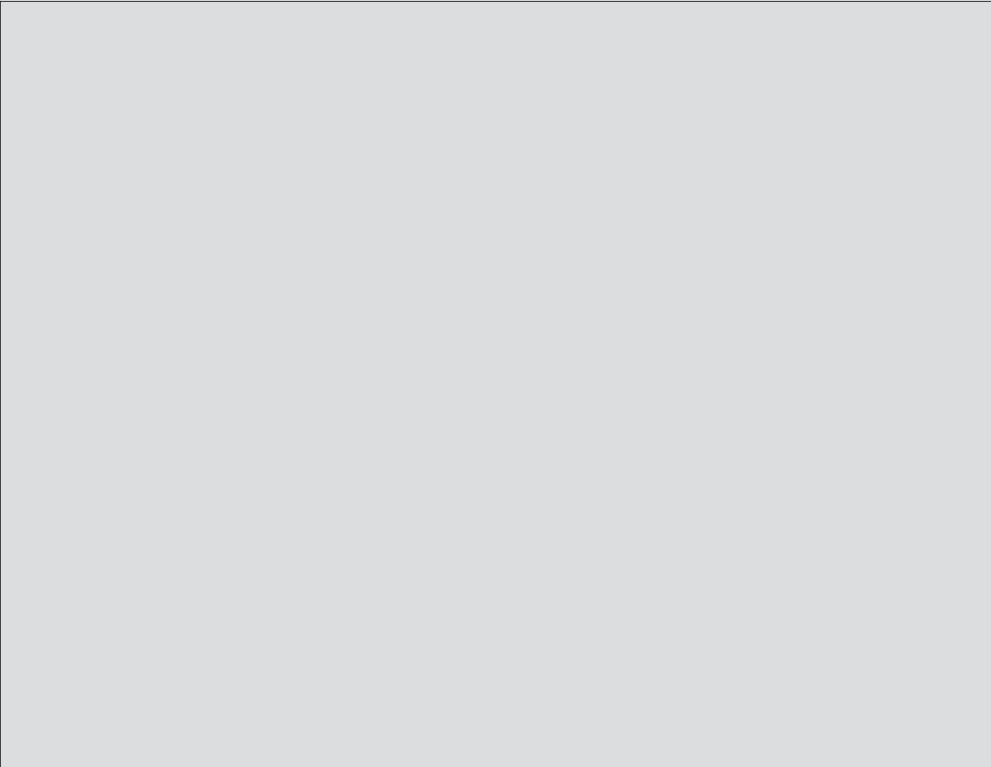


Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray signs a copy of the new Airman handbook to present to Airman Basic Thomas Collins Jr. of the 326th Training Squadron Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The handbook, presented to the trainees, is a pocket-sized book that covers heritage, national leaders, Air Force operations and a variety of military-related topics. A copy is being provided to every new Airman when they enter the Air Force.**



Every member of Team Tyndall is valuable. Play it safe; don't become a statistic.





# Another Option: Staying Reserve after separation can pay off


**ALICIA HELTON**  
5th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

**MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. (AFPN)** — Should I stay or should I go?

For those in uniform, it is a question they face each time they come to the end of their enlistment. To many, deciding to stay on active duty or switch to the civilian sector seems to be their only options.

Air Force Reserve officials beg to differ. Technical Sergeant Michael Nienhaus, an in-service recruiter here, offers people another choice: keep their military benefits and serve their country while holding down a civilian job.

“There are many programs and benefits the Reserve (has to offer),” Sergeant Nienhaus said. “There’s 100 percent educational assistance as well as accessibility to [college credits tests] and the commissary and base exchange privileges. Also, there



**Keep in mind**

To maintain education benefits from the Montgomery G.I. Bill, Airmen must be on active duty for two years before crossing over to the Reserve, where they must serve for four more years.

are family dental and medical benefits for the (Airman) while (he or she is) in uniform.” In the Reserve, people can take advantage of programs like individual mobilization augmentee to balance their duty commitments with their civilian occupations.

“IMA is a great program for a stable full-time student and is very flexible by not tak-

ing up weekends,” Sergeant Nienhaus said. “Under this program, reservists are required to work 26 days a year, which includes two weeks of duty.”

Those wanting to serve on a weekly basis can apply for the full-time Air Reserve Technician program. People in these civil service jobs must be fully qualified and have their five skill level completed to apply for a job in their specialty. Airmen receive the same benefits as those on active duty. To qualify, the Reserve unit must have an opening in the Airman’s career field and skill level, he said.

Meanwhile, enlisted Airmen can turn in their stripes for bars through the Deserving Airmen Program commissioning source.

“About 70 percent of Reserve officers are hired (from) within the Reserve enlisted ranks,” Sergeant Nienhaus said.

All Airmen thinking of getting out should see an in-service recruiter during their

outprocessing, Sergeant Nienhaus said. He suggests these people reply early, show up with an open mind, listen to what the recruiter has to offer and have a game plan ready. He suggests married Airmen talk with their spouse about their options and have questions ready to ask.

About 20 percent of active-duty Airmen choose to cross over to the Reserve, he said. “A few requirements must be met, including passing the fitness test and having a good (preventative)-health assessment,” Sergeant Nienhaus said.

To maintain education benefits from the Montgomery G.I. Bill, Airmen must be on active duty for two years before crossing over to the Reserve, where they must serve for four more years.

Servicemembers going into the Reserve with no outstanding service obligations can enter a one-year contract.

# Master sergeant receives long-awaited Phantom incentive ride

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

During his career as a fighter jet crew chief on F-4 Phantoms and later F-16C Fighting Falcons, he strapped hundreds of pilots into their cockpits prior to flight.

But the tables turned Jan. 27, as the crew chief was getting strapped in for an incentive ride in one of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Groups QF-4Es here, an experience he'd dreamt of for almost his entire career.

Master Sgt. Richard Magdich, a member of the Indiana Air National Guard's 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing, on temporary duty here, said the experience was everything he thought it was going to be and more.

"It was great," Sergeant Magdich said. "I really appreciate all the efforts of everyone involved, from active duty to guard and also the civilian contract pilot, Sal Bonacasa, and ground crew, both from Lockheed Martin. This couldn't have happened without them and I really appreciate it."

They took off in full power aiming almost straight up, and Sergeant Magdich said some of the flying maneuvers he experienced during the flight were aileron rolls, a split S maneuver and at times pulled about five and a half Gs.

"They were a little tougher to handle than I thought they were going to be," he said. "It really wears you out."

The Phantom fan also got to fly a little bit, an experience he described as "cool."

"Sergeant Magdich had a great time and did very well for his first flight," said Mr. Bonacasa. "Being a former F-4 crew chief, he was familiar with the back cockpit and not intimidated by all the gauges and switches. He was surprised how cramped and restricted the back cockpit was and now has a greater respect for the electronic warfare officers and weapons system officers who flew in the back seat."

Mr. Bonacasa retired as a major in 1987. He's been flying military aircraft for almost 39 years and has more than 5,200 hours in a variety of combat aircraft. He also saw service in Vietnam where he flew 162 combat missions in the F-105 Thunderchief, 56 of which were over North Vietnam.

"It always gives me a warm feeling to help someone realize a dream of flying in the F-4," Mr. Bonacasa said. "Although I've been flying since 1966, I still get a rush when taking off and doing my job. I was honored to be able to do it for him."

The sergeant, who turns 60 Tuesday, will also mark that day with his retirement as he reaches the maximum age for Air National Guard duty. He initially joined the active-duty Air Force in 1965 and was based at MacDill Air Force Base, where he worked crash recovery on F-4Cs and T-33 Shooting Stars.



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

**Sal Bonacasa, left, F-4 Phantom civilian contract pilot, briefs Master Sgt. Richard Magdich about the ejection seat before he takes a long-awaited incentive ride.**

He volunteered for duty in Vietnam in 1966, where he served with "Satan's Angels" as an F-4 C/D crew chief in the 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, in Ubon Thailand. In fact, he said he found it ironic the doctor for his incentive flight physical was a second generation American of Vietnamese descent.

Although Sergeant Magdich got out of the military in 1969, he said the chance to work on F-4s again in the Fort Wayne guard unit sparked a strong desire to return. Sergeant Magdich and the 122nd TFW transitioned to the F-16C Falcon in 1991.

"It was the F-4s flying out of Fort Wayne that brought me back. I never realized they were there and then one day I heard the sound and that got my attention," he said. "It was my first and continues to be my favorite aircraft. Flying in one is something I've always wanted to do."

Master Sgt. Paul McDougal, a crew chief with the unit for 31 years attested to that.

"This is excellent. He's never had a ride before but that's all he's ever talked about his whole career."

Senior Master Sgt. Ted Shively, the unit's specialist flight chief, described the Sergeant Magdich as "very meticulous and reliable, the kind of guy you want working for you."

Meanwhile, Sergeant Magdich said he'll return to Indiana and prepare for retirement and reflect on the fond memory of finally getting a flight in an F-4.





### Climate control

Staff Sgt. Sam Lebouf, 325th Maintenance Squadron jet engine specialist, installs an environmental control system on an F-15 engine.

Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

## Tyndall Mardi Gras parade route

Parade starts from Tyndall Marina Club today at 4:20 p.m.



# Tyndall raises more than \$10K for tsunami relief



Master Sgt. Val Gempis

**GALLE, Sri Lanka** – K. Rupawathi and her husband A.P. Tudor Jayasekera ponder their future at the ruins here where their home once stood. The couple lost their home and all their belongings after tsunamis as high as 50 feet devastated their town and swept across coastal areas.

## 2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Fighter Wing presented a check for more than \$10,000 Monday to the United Way of Northwest Florida to aid victims of the devastating tsunami that struck parts of Southeast Asia.

More than 50 volunteers from Tyndall stepped up to collect donations earmarked for use in short-term aid efforts and the long-term rebuilding of infrastructure in those affected areas.

"This is just another example of the Air Force family rallying around those in need," said Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th FW vice commander, who presented the check to Ed Richards, the United Way of Northwest Florida president. "I'm always amazed, yet never surprised, by the generosity and philanthropy of our men and women in uniform, their families and our civilian employees. It truly epitomizes the humanitarian aspect in all of us."

The fundraiser occurred directly after the holidays and not long after the Combined Federal Campaign fundraiser, yet Tyndall Airmen pulled together a surprising amount of donations, said Tech. Sgt. Brian Hoppe, 325th FW historian and project officer for the fundraiser.

"I didn't know how much money we would be able to raise in just two weeks, but a grand total of more than \$10,000 shows how generous Team Tyndall is," he said. "It was the least we could do to help those who lost everything."

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th FW commander, echoed Sergeant Hoppe's comments and added he is grateful for the men and women of Tyndall who continuously shine in times of war and in peace.

"Through thick and thin, the Air Force community as a whole pulls together to help others in need around the globe," he said.

## Checkertail Salute

1st Lt. Brent Kerr



Lisa Norman

**Lieutenant Kerr receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Lieutenant Kerr, who is in charge of making sure the 325th Medical Group is deployable and disaster response ready. He spearheaded the Code Silver exercise which brought base and civilian responders together to plan and exercise for contingency. He also aggressively tracked individual mobility requirements for 45 people during a deployment exercise and scheduled and executed another exercise for more than 120 people.

**Duty title:** 325th Medical Group expeditionary medical operations chief  
**Time on station:** Two years, four months  
**Time in service:** Two years, eight months  
**Hometown:** Belleville, Ill.  
**Hobbies:** Weight training, running, basketball, golf, motorcycle riding  
**Goals:** Obtain a master's degree in business administration, compete in a triathlon  
**Favorite book:** "The five people you meet in heaven," by Mitch Albom  
**Favorite movie:** Big Fish  
**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The beach  
**Pet peeves:** Laziness, the "that's-not-my-job," attitude  
**Proudest moment in the military:** Being active duty for my father's retirement from the Air Force

*The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.*



## "RESCUE" IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE ...

If life has you thinking there's no way out, it's time to call in the professionals.

Your base chaplain, the Life Skills counselors, and the people at 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) are ready to help.

**ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY**





# Partnership brings Air Dominance into view

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall has taken another step towards bringing Air Dominance to the Global War on Terrorism.

The base has partnered with Langley Air Force Base, Va., and is now training F/A-22 Raptor pilots who will be operational for war-fighting within the year.

Pilots from the 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley will spend 60 days here each learning the Raptor syllabus and accumulating 33 sortie hours in Tyndall jets.

"We should reach initial operational capability, or be ready to go to war when called upon, after December of this year," said Lt. Col. James Hecker, 27th FS commander, and first from the squadron to go through Tyndall's course.

The 43rd Fighter Squadron here plans to process two pilots in March, three in May and then six pilots will train every two months thereafter. A total of 96 mission-ready Langley pilots will graduate from Tyndall's runways.

Here, the pilots will become basic aircraft qualified in air-to-air and air-to-ground mission tasks and will be able to employ the aircraft in the Air Dominance role, according to the syllabus.

The pilots will learn all conversion, emergency, and instrument tasks, day and night air-to-air refueling, basic low altitude employment, night vision goggle tactical employment, air-to-air and air-to-ground mission tasks.

"Training these pilots is very significant," said Maj.

Lance Pilch, 43rd FS B-Flight commander. "They are the first ones receiving training for a deployable, go-to-war Raptor squadron."

This evolution, where the Raptor mission is becoming a reality, is affecting both bases' Raptor inventory as well.

"We at Langley appreciate Tyndall loaning us two F/A-22 aircraft to start our program," Colonel Hecker said. "The F/A-22 program is now a team effort, and we are proud to join Tyndall as part of that team."

Loaning Langley the Raptors was important, because the pilots, who were originally, F-15C, F-15E, and F-16 pilots, will have to keep up with Raptor training when they return to their operational squadron. The extra sorties will advance their training to achieve basic mission capable or combat mission ready status.

Transitioning the Eagle squadron to a Raptor squadron is also running smooth at Langley, the Colonel said.



Steve Wallace

**Lieutenant Colonel James Hecker, 27th Fighter Squadron commander, taxis an F/A-22 Raptor onto the Tyndall runway during his training. Colonel Hecker is the first pilot from Langley to come through Raptor training here. Tyndall will process 96 pilots from Langley to become mission ready pilots in December.**

"Right now we are losing the F-15s from the squadron at a rate of two per month. They are going to the St. Louis Air National Guard," he said.

The partnership between Tyndall and Langley is bringing Air Dominance closer than ever for America. It starts here during training, continues at Langley, and will soon be in full view, when the aircraft reaches IOC in December.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

## 'Exhausting' work?

**Airman Brandon Buckner and Airman Stephen Graff, 372nd Training Squadron Mission Ready Airmen students, inspect the exhaust nozzles of an F-15 as part of their pre-flight checklist.**

## Training Spotlight

**What will you do when you get to your operational duty station?**

"I will launch, recover and inspect F-15 Eagles. My job is to be the head mechanic and to know everything that is going on with the jet. I will also be the aircraft manager and will know where each part of the jet is, if it is out for repair. Everything that goes on with the jet goes through me."

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS**

**DAVID EVINGER**

Mission Ready Airmen  
Crew Chief student

Going to Gowen  
Field National  
Guard Base,  
Oregon





# Performance is 'tops': AF entertainers showcase talent for local crowd

Airman 1st Class David Weaver and 1st Lt. Carlos Jayme, entertain a packed Panama City Marina Civic Center Jan. 26 with a dueling violins routine, one of many pieces performed by the Tops in Blue entertainers. They played musical pieces spanning nearly all eras of music, from Big Band and swing to rhythm and blues and rock and roll.



Photos by Lisa Norman



Senior Airman Stacey Bensing shows her 'attitude' while singing Madonna's "Vogue" during the show.



Tops in Blue members showcase their Big Band talents during one of the show's opening numbers.



It was "Hammer Time," when Senior Airman Jamell Majia, flanked by his dance crew, performed M.C. Hammer's "Can't Touch This."

## 50 years of entertainment

Celebrating 50 years of entertainment history, Tops In Blue is proud to represent the United States Air Force as one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind. This world-renown production, Tops In Blue, is an all-active duty Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities.

Each year, thousands compete in base talent contests and the most talented move on to higher levels of competition. The result is an elite group composed of 35 of the most talented vocalists, musicians, and dancers anywhere. Known as the Air Forces' Expeditionary Entertainers; the group's main mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world.

The enormous popularity of the group has also made them America's goodwill ambassadors around the globe.

Each team begins their tour with an intense 45 day training period at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, "Home of Tops In Blue". This training consists of a highly accelerated educational process to prepare them to succeed as world-class entertainers and distinguished Air Force Ambassadors during their nine month tour.

The performers must not only master the instrumental, vocal, choreography, and staging requirements of the performance, but also the intricate responsibilities of being their own technical staff. The performing team under the guidance of five technical personnel is responsible for setting up over 36,000 pounds of staging, lighting, audio, and special effects equipment required for each performance. They must also become a complete self-contained operational unit with each member being responsible for logistical responsibilities such as ground transportation, airlift, lodging, dining, wardrobe, palletizing, etc. throughout the tour.



Courtesy photo



# War Games: Exercise evaluates Airmen’s ability to handle real world scenarios



Timothy Rahn, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron hazardous material emergency medical specialist, treats a moulaged “victim” during one of the exercise scenarios.



Major Judy Manno, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron optometrist, applies moulage, realistic stage makeup, to Airman Brandon Burns, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice. Casual Airmen from around the base volunteered to play realistic roles in the exercise to test first responders.



Moulaged “victims” lay in the grassy areas near the dormitories waiting for first responders after a simulated terrorist attack.



Tech. Sgt. Carrey Dintaman, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron medical craftsman, and Maj. Dai Tran, 325th ADS flight surgeon, treat Airman 1st Class Jake Stroich, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice, for impalement to the chest caused by a simulated explosion in the dormitories.



Bobby Richardson, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron assistant fire chief and exercise evaluation team member, gives Airman 1st Class Bruce Thomashunis, 325th CES journeyman, a realistic sample of a chemical agent to use for determining what chemical was released during the major accident response exercise.



Staff Sgt. Nichelle Denny, 325th Communications Squadron messaging technician, practices low-crawl techniques during an M-16 weapons refresher course.



## Briefs

**Annual Awards Banquet**

The 325th Fighter Wing Annual Awards Banquet will start at 6 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. Dress is mess dress/semi-formal for military. Choice of meal is London broil or stuffed chicken breast. Contact your unit first sergeant for tickets.

**Wood Manor housing project**

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will begin replacing existing water mains in the Wood Manor Housing area from now until the summer season. A letter identifying the times of periodic water outages will be placed on residents' doors prior to any known impact. This project will tentatively complete all utility replacement in Wood Manor Housing. For more information, call Huey Moore at 283-4206.

**Tyndall Tax Center open**

The Base Tax Center is now open until April 15. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Anyone filing their taxes with the Base Tax Center must bring the Social Security cards of the family members or dependents they are claiming.

The office is located in Bldg. 662, Room 170. Call 283-9192 to schedule an appointment.

**Step Up Florida**

The statewide relay to focus on physical activity, Step Up Florida, will be Tuesday. Volunteers will participate in the relay by tracking mileage doing their favorite activity, be it jogging, skating, biking, or jumping rope.

For specific information, or to sign up, contact Julia Ruschmann at 872-4455 ext. 1369.

**OSC art auction**

Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club announces the Spring Fund Raiser: an evening of art and wine tasting Feb. 11 at the Officers' Club. This art auction will feature a comprehensive selection of elegantly framed art from a variety of classic and contemporary artists. There will be appetizers and wine tasting.

The art preview and wine tasting will be at 6 p.m., and the auction begins at 7 p.m. The OSC can earn more money simply based on the number of people in attendance at 8 p.m. All are invited to attend.

**OSC scholarship**

Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club college scholarship applications are now available for qualified college-bound high school seniors and military spouses. Applications can be picked up at high school guidance counselors office or at the Tyndall Education Center. Deadline for application return is noon Feb. 25. For more information, call 286-1447.

**Tyndall Thrift Shop annual sale**

All donated clothing will be 50 percent off the



Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek

entire month of February. Selections include various sweaters, coats, skirts and formal wear. The store will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Normal shopping hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday - Friday. The store is located in Bldg. 743 across from the post office.

**Men's varsity softball team**

Mens varsity softball team try outs are tentatively scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 12, 5 p.m. Feb. 16, and 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19-21. Bad weather make-up dates will be announced if necessary. For more information, contact Maj. Eric North at 283-2054.

**2005 Open House**

The 2005 Gulf Coast Salute open house and air show, "A Salute to North America," takes place here May 14-15. The Canadian Snowbirds, an internationally renowned nine-jet aerial demonstration team, will be the featured highlight, along with the U.S. Army's Golden Knights parachute jump team. Many other military and civilian aerial and ground demos and displays will be showcased. Periodically, the *Gulf Defender* and Commander's Access Channel will provide further updates and announcements about this event. Questions about the open house can be e-mailed to: PAcontacts@tyndall.af.mil.

**The Air Force Virtual Ed Center**

The Air Force Virtual Education Center, at afvec.langley.af.mil, provides information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide stu-

dents one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower students to actively participate in all aspects of their education. This service offers CLEP testing, information on Community College of the Air Force degree, application procedures for commissioning and testing for PME completion.

**Classifieds****2002 Ford Mustang**

Dark blue, tan interior, v6, auto, 25000 miles. Still under factory warranty. Must sell. \$12,500. Call 624-0786.

**Garage Sales**

2769B Thunderchief Drive

2788B Dart Avenue

Garage sales are held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

**Chapel Schedule****Weekly Bible Study**

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in room 108.

**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two

Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment

Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

**Students unite for charity cause**

Senior Airmen Ben Honeycutt and Ian Carmichael, Airman Leadership School students, help Tyndall Elementary School students set up displays for a garage sale held to raise money for the tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two  
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

**Protestant Sunday services**

Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One  
Religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476

General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two  
Sunday Night Live Service, 6 p.m., Chapel One

**Tyndall Chapel Lenten/Easter Schedule:****Ecumenical:**

Lenten Devotions/Mass, 11:30 a.m., Chapel Two  
Lenten Soup Luncheons will be at noon on Tuesdays from Feb. 15 to March 15 in Chapel Two

**Catholic, in Chapel 2:**

Ash Wednesday Mass, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 9  
Ash Wednesday Service, 5 p.m., Feb. 9  
Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m., Feb 18 to March 18  
Palm Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m. March 20  
Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m., March 24  
Good Friday Service, 3 p.m. March 25  
Easter Vigil, 10 p.m. March 26  
Easter Mass, 9:30 a.m. March 27

**Protestant:**

Ash Wednesday, 5 p.m., Feb. 9, Chapel One  
Palm Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m., March 20, Chapel One  
Palm Sunday Service, 11 a.m., March 20, Chapel Two  
Maundy Thursday, 5 p.m., March 24, Chapel One  
Good Friday, 5 p.m., March 25, Chapel One  
Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., March 26, Shoal Point



# Sports Page Pizza Pub hosts Super Bowl party

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

With the biggest professional football game of the year just two days away, the Sports Page Pizza Pub plans to bring all the excitement to the base population.

There will be plenty of chances for club members to win prizes, including two Xbox video game systems. Also, everyone can enjoy food and beverage specials throughout the day while they watch the entire NFL event on one of 10 televisions, including the 51-inch big screen TV.

The Pizza Pub, located in the Tyndall Community Center, will open at 1 p.m., and feature televised pre-game festivities leading up to the game, scheduled to begin at 5:25 p.m. Central Standard Time.

"We're throwing a Super Bowl party for all the people on our base, especially the young troops, because we want to provide them a place to watch the game that has a fun atmosphere," said Amanda Eriksson, Pizza Pub manager.

The atmosphere at the Pizza Pub will be especially fun for one lucky person. In honor of this being the 39th Super Bowl, the Pizza Pub is giving away an inflatable lounge chair to the 39th customer that day, and the chair will be placed right in

front of the big screen TV, giving that person the best seat in the house.

Another contest will consist of a board with 100 squares, each representing a possible combination of the final number in each team's scores at the end of each quarter. Whoever's square matches the score at the end of the first and third quarters will receive a hat, T-shirt and other prizes. The winners of the second and fourth quarters will each receive an Xbox video game system and the new Electronic Arts Sports Madden NFL 2005 video game.

"There will be one square picked per person in that contest," Ms. Eriksson explained. "The first 100 to pick will be the ones to get a chance to win those prizes."

Anyone who has a driver's license from the state of the winning team will also win prizes, but even those not from Massachusetts or Pennsylvania have a chance at other prizes too.

Everyone will also have the chance to keep a few extra dollars in their pocket at the Pizza Pub's Super Bowl party, according to Ms. Eriksson.

"Food and beverage specials will be going on throughout the day," she said. "One special that was very popular last year, the 16-inch



Steve Riddle

**Super Bowl fans celebrate a Carolina Panthers touchdown during last year's game. The New England Patriots went on to win that contest, 32 – 29. Sunday's game marks their third trip to the Super Bowl in four years.**

pizza and pitcher special for \$8.50, will be back. And during half-time we're going to have half-off on all appetizers."

Many pro football analysts' statistics are giving the New England

Patriots a slight edge going into Sunday's big game, and Ms. Eriksson was reluctant to make a definite prediction on the outcome, but said she expects a hard-fought contest.

"Last year's game was good, and if both teams come ready to play, this one should be good too. I just hope it's close."

For more information, contact the Sports Page Pizza Pub at 283-3222.

## Tigers take two from commandos, clinch conference championship

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team won both games against the visiting Hurlburt Field Commandos in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action Saturday and Sunday, and claimed their second consecutive conference title.

In Saturday's game, the two squads engaged in a crowd pleasing fast break brand of basketball with defense as an afterthought. Hurlburt led for the majority of the first half until Tyndall made a late run led by Elvin Walker, who poured in 26 first-half points to take a 48-44 lead at the half. In the second half, the Commandos enjoyed a 83-81 lead with 6:03 remaining to be played when Tyndall went on a 9-0 run to take control of the contest and continued on to take the victory with a score of 96-91.

Elvin Walker led the Tigers in scoring with a game high 40 points, followed by Tysen Pina with 19, Anthony Showers with 16 and Rob Montgomery with 10 points. Pina and Montgomery led in rebounding with 14 and 11 respectively, while Showers had 10 rebounds from his guard position; Omar Johnson and Walker tied in assists with five each. Saul Bookman led the Commandos in scoring with 25 points.

In a repeat of Saturday's game, the Commandos again jumped out to an early lead, which they maintained throughout the first half as they led 46-41 at the intermission. Leading scorer Elvin Walker, was taken out of the contest due to an injury he sustained at the start of the match. In the second half, Mark Pough came off the bench to re-

place Walker and the Tigers made a concerted effort to get the ball inside to Tysen Pina, who scored 23 second half points while Pough racked up 13 points. On the defensive end Tyndall returned to playing their usual hard-nosed style of defense which had been dormant for a game and a half. With the offense and defense, clicking on all cylinders the Tigers' lead ballooned to as many as 20 points despite using liberal substitutions. With victory secured 99-84, the Tigers achieved their goal of repeating as conference champs, with a 30 victory season and three-peating as Post Season champs in their sights.

Tysen Pina paced the Tigers in scoring with a game and season-high 34 points, including his usual crowd pleasing dunks, followed by Mark Pough with

16, Rob Montgomery with 14, Elvin Walker with 13, and Anthony Showers with 10. Pina and Montgomery again led in rebounding with 14 and 12 respectively, and Omar Johnson led in assists with 10. Bookman again led Hurlburt in scoring with 31 points.

This weekend, the Tigers travel to Fort Benning, Ga., to challenge the Bandits. Next weekend the Tigers and Lady Tigers will close out their 2004-05 home schedule as they host the teams from Robins AFB, Ga.

(Courtesy of the Tyndall Tigers)







# Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

## TYNDALL MARDI GRAS TODAY PARADE 4:20 p.m.

STAGING FROM THE MARINA CLUB

Eagle Drive  
Phantom Street  
Sabre Drive  
Ends at Youth Center



## ALL RANKS OFFICERS' CLUB PARTY 5 p.m.

MEMBERS \$12.95  
NON-MEMBERS \$15.95

SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP AT THE DOOR AND  
GET MEMBER PRICE AND BE ENTERED TO  
WIN A NEW DVD PLAYER!

CAJUN BUFFET: SHRIMP CREOLE,  
CHICKEN GUMBO, SHRIMP JAMBALAYA,  
CRAWFISH TASSO, DIRTY RICE, REDBEANS &  
RICE, AND KING CAKE

LIVE MUSIC:  
JB'S ZYDECOZOO BAND  
CONTESTS, PRIZES, FORTUNE TELLER  
**For Details Call  
283-4357**



All Ranks at the Enlisted Club

## Free Movie Thursday Night SpongeBob SquarePants Rated PG Movie 6 p.m.

Spongebob SquarePants takes  
leave from the town of Bikini Bottom  
in order to track down King Neptune's  
stolen crown.

### Snack Bar Items Include:

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs,  
nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda  
Children age 7 and under eat free.  
Youth under age 16 must be accompanied  
by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

**283-4357**

## Pizza Pub in the CAC Nascar Race Kickoff Party Feb. 12

Races will be viewed at the Pizza Pub  
Prizes for participation will be given  
at each event. Must be a current  
AETC Club member to win.

**283-3222 for details**

## All Ranks Valentines Dinner Monday, Feb. 14 at the Officers' Club Members Only \$36.95 per Couple

### - Menu -

Glass of wine  
Crab Cake Appetizer  
Specialty Salad  
Sliced Tenderloin  
Lobster Tail  
Roasted New Potatoes  
Chef Vegetables  
Cheese Cake Dessert

Limited Seatings at 5:30 p.m or 7:15 p.m.  
Reservations Strongly Recommended

For reservations call 283-4357

## Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

## Baseball & Softball Registration Ends Feb. 14

All youth ages 5-14 may register. A birth  
certificate, shot records, and a current physical  
exam (not older than one year as of July 1,  
2004) due at time of registration. Skills  
evaluation Feb. 12 for new players ages 9-12 and  
13-14. Practice begins February and March;  
games begin March and April.

Age Groups	Cost*
Coach Pitch.....5-6	\$25
Machine Pitch.....7-8	\$30
Minor Majors.....9-10	\$35
Little Majors.....11-12	\$40
Dizzy Dean.....13-14	\$50

Girls Softball...10-12, 13-14 \$40

\*Additional \$10 For non-members of Youth Center

## Cardio Center Bldg. 912

**Pilates Classes**, 10 class punch  
card \$30 or \$6 per class  
Tues. & Thurs. 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Wed. & Thurs. noon-1 p.m.

**Yoga Classes**, 10 class punch card  
\$35 or \$6 per class  
Mon. & Wed.: 5-6 p.m.

**Stop by the Community Center  
and purchase your card today!**

**Call 283-2495**

## Tyndall Enlisted Club



**Saturday, 8 p.m.**

Latin dance night is on the first Saturday  
of each month

**For details call 283-4357**

## Super Bowl Sunday at the CAC Pizza Pub

Doors open at 1 p.m.  
Game starts 5:25 p.m.

Specials:  
One large pizza and a pitcher \$8.50  
Half-time appetizers at half price

Prizes include: 2 XBOX systems, T-shirts,  
coolers and hats for club members!

**For more information  
283-3222 / 283-2814**



No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.



## Play Texas

## Hold 'Em!

**All Ranks at the Enlisted Club**

Begins Feb 26  
Play every Saturday for seven weeks.  
Grand Championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and \$5,000 in chips  
Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a car.  
Top three nightly winners win prizes

Seating is limited. Sign up today.

**Call 283-4357**

Must be active USAF Clubs members.



# ARTICLE 15s



## Article 15s

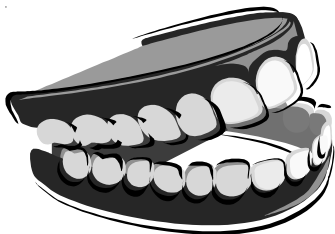
- An airman received 45 days extra duty, a reduction to E-1, a reprimand and forfeitures of \$100 pay per month for two months for having unauthorized pets in his dorm room and failing dorm room inspections.
- An airman received forfeitures of \$100 pay and a reprimand for underage drinking.

- An airman first class received 30 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-2 and a reprimand for making a false official statement.
- A senior airman received 30 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-3 and a reprimand for making a false official statement.

## Courts-Martial

- Airman First Class Rufus Shumate, 81st Test Support Squadron, received a bad conduct discharge, reduction to E-1 and six months confinement for marijuana and ecstasy use.
- (Courtesy of the Base Legal Office)*

## Dental bites...



- Here are a few quick tips to make annual dental cleanings go quicker and less painful.
1. Start flossing every day for two weeks prior to your appointment.
  2. Make sure you brush and floss prior to your appointment.
  3. Try not to smoke prior to your appointment.
  4. Try not to eat immediately before your appointment.
- Just follow these quick easy steps and your appointment will be more efficient.
- (Courtesy of the 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron)*





# Golden Bolt Award



## Airman 1st Class Jason Matthews



Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek

Airman Matthews, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit avionics specialist, checks the continuity between the electronic control amplifier and the displacement gyro while troubleshooting a horizontal situation indicator malfunction. Airman Matthews is the Golden Bolt winner for December. He found the bolt in front of Hangar 2 before a morning foreign object debris, or FOD, walk.

# Teets to build on core competencies

TECH. SGT. DAVID JABLONSKI  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Peter Teets will focus on core competencies to take the Air Force through a transitional period that includes the fiscal 2006 budget process and the quadrennial defense review.

Mr. Teets has served as undersecretary of the Air Force since 2001 and became the acting secretary of the Air Force following the retirement of Dr. James Roche. Mr. Teets also serves as the Department of Defense executive agent for space and as the director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

“I intend to maintain the current priorities and continue to build on the Air Force’s core competencies,” Mr. Teets said. “The Air Force is a wonderful institution because of its people. We need to continue developing them in the same way we have in the last several years.”

One recent example he cited is the space cadre formed under the national security space program. That program integrated professional-development opportunities and rotational assignments for space professionals, similar to the way aviators are trained and mentored.

“We want to build core competencies that consist of developing Airmen, transitioning technology to warfighting and integrating operations,” Mr. Teets said.

Although he said core competencies would serve the Air Force well into the future, the service’s leaders need to seek the resources necessary to recapitalize assets when discussing next year’s budget.

“The 2006 budget will go to Congress, and I will certainly testify and provide rationale for why the president’s budget is a good budget, and to seek help from Congress to provide the resources we need to accomplish our mission,” Mr. Teets said.

The budget discussion comes at the same time the Air Force begins to meet the challenges of the quadrennial defense review.

But the most challenging task Mr. Teets said he faces is one of image.

“I would simply reiterate that one of the most important and best things about our Air Force is that we honor our core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. To that end, I would urge all of us to rededicate ourselves to those core values and live our lives according to them.”



# DeCA allows ‘Agent’ authorization

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Having both parents deployed can be very troubling for the children left behind. But thanks to a little-known DOD directive, military children can continue to enter the friendly confines of any commissary. Agent authorization benefits any authorized commissary shopper who needs assistance shopping or who cannot shop because of disability, illness or infirmity, as well as the children of service members who may not be available due to deployment, remote assignment or casualty.

Agent authorization is not granted by the Defense Commissary Agency. It is administered and managed by the installation commander through the local pass and identification office.

“We want to provide a touch of home for children whose parents are deployed, and often family finances are stretched to the limit,” said Patrick Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer for DeCA. “Whether they’re buying for a toddler or a teen, we can help the agents get the


best value on groceries and personal care items by providing savings of 30 percent or more. It’s just one less worry deployed parents will have.”

The agent does not have to be an authorized commissary shopper. The military member may request an agent authorization to allow the individual who is the primary caregiver for the children of deployed parents to enter the installation. Non-military primary caregivers should contact the identification card section on the installation to determine what legal documents, such as power of attorney, may also be needed to establish proof of caregiver status. At the same time, the individual can ask about gaining access to the installation.

Upon verification of caregiver status, the individual receives written authorization from the commander’s representative designating him or her as an “agent” to accompany the children of deployed parents, or to shop for someone who is unable to get to the commissary or needs assistance while shopping. Usually,

### Gaining access

- People who need this benefit can visit the Pass and ID section of the Military Personnel Office in Bldg. 662 to will get a temporary pass giving them access to the base.
- To find the nearest commissary, look under the “locations” link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). All commissaries have a local Web page with directions and management contact information.



the letter is for a 12-month period, but it can be extended in cases of continued hardship.

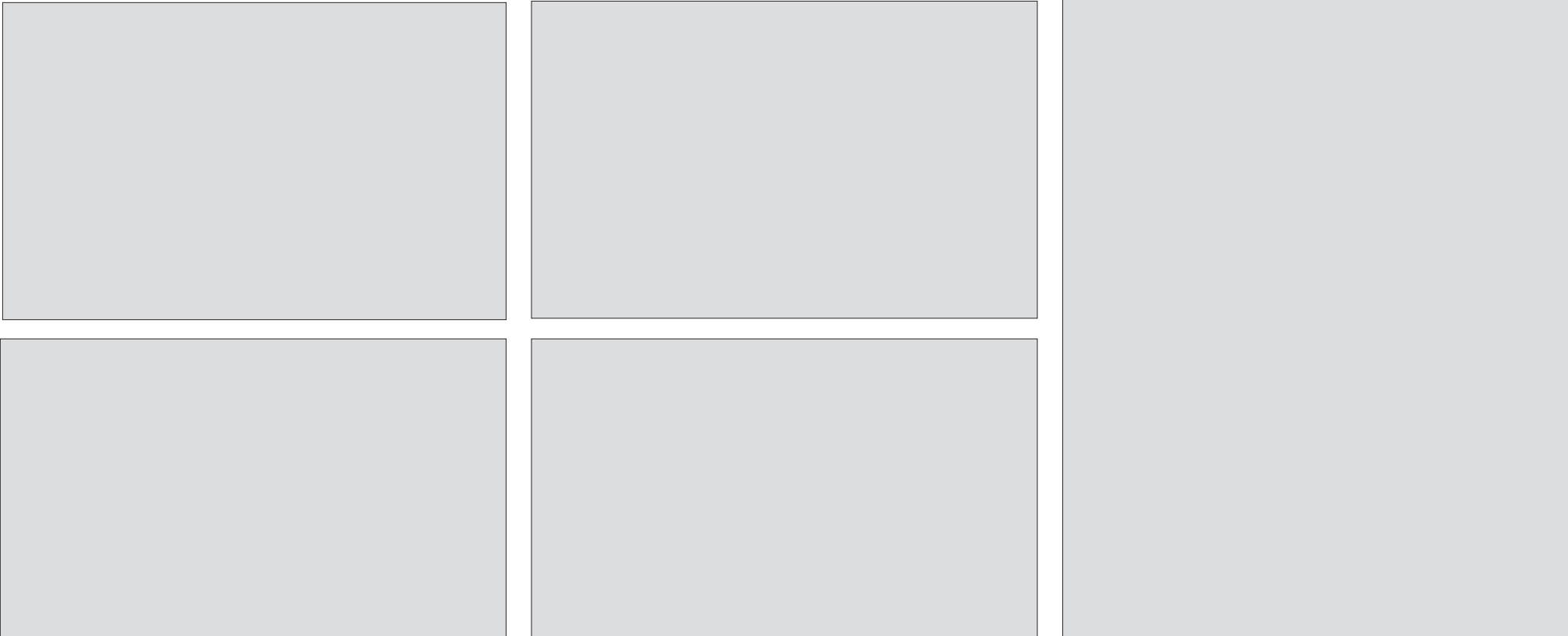
“Every situation is unique so contact the identification card section on the installation to determine what proof is needed to have an agent shop in the commissary on your installation,” Nixon said. “In most cases you can also get in touch with the commissary’s store director to put you in touch with the appropriate officials.”

For those at Tyndall AFB, Fla. needing to take advantage of this program, the appropriate place to start is the 325th Services Squadron Command Section, Bldg. 1125, Suwannee Ave. According to Staff Sgt. Amanda Diddle, there are only a few documents re-

quired, and the whole process is relatively quick.

“Anyone needing to get a commissary/BX card can get one here in Room Five,” she said. “If someone is getting a card to shop for a person who is disabled, they just need to have a doctor’s letter stating that the person is disabled and who is eligible to shop for them, along with the ID of the person they’re shopping for, and their own driver’s license. For children of deployed parents, the guardian just needs a power of attorney, along with the child’s ID and again, their own driver’s license. If they have everything they need, it usually only takes about 15 minutes.”

*(Courtesy of the Defense Commissary Agency)*





# Wing FOD Preventer of the Month

Airman 1st Class Ryan Harville



2nd Lt. William Powell

Airman 1st Class Ryan Harville, 325th Maintenance Squadron phase inspection team member, inspects a #3 high-torque bit used to tighten and loosen F-15 Eagle panel fasteners. Airman Harville found this bit, which someone had left inside a panel, while preparing a jet for a Quality Assurance inspection. His discovery prevented this foreign object debris from causing damage or complete brake failure, and resulted in him being named the 325th Fighter Wing FOD Preventer of the Month for December.

The intent of the 325th Fighter Wing FOD Incentive Program is to reward FOD conscious organizations, military members, or civilian personnel, who take the extra steps to identify and correct potential FOD hazards by accounting for tools and personal articles, picking up loose debris and hardware, and performing FOD-conscious inspections. Promoting positive action to eliminate flightline and work area FOD can reduce the potential for FOD-related incidents.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Jahara Brown, 325th Security Forces Squadron patrolman.





